what is symbolized by water immersion. Hence in the taking shelter of Noah's sons and daughters-in-law inside the ark subject to Noah we have another Scriptural illustration which argues for the fitness of water immersion on the part of those who become the "other sheep" of the Greater Noah today, Christ Jesus.

[21] Salvation, of course, is not gained solely by water baptism, as some would interpret the spurious verse at Mark 16:16 to mean, but is gained by carrying out that which is symbolized by the water baptism, namely, one's entire consecration to God through faith in Christ Jesus. The baptized one must continue faithful to God in the footsteps of the Son of God to realize eventually eternal life. Thus he must demonstrate by works of integrity the sincerity of his faith in God and in his provided Redeemer, Christ Jesus.

[22] Water baptism, then, being understood to symbolize the believer's unreserved consecration of himself to God, who is there to say that water baptism may not be practiced after the battle of Armageddon under the thousand-year reign of Christ Jesus and his body-members? Consecration to God will surely be in order then for those on earth who desire to gain everlasting life in the Paradise earth. The bringing forth of those in the graves who have done evil and who will come forth in a resurrection of judgment will not mean their automatic consecration to God. (John 5:28, 29) "There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust" (Acts 24:15); and certainly the unjust are not consecrated to God. The malefactor who died on the tree with Jesus, asking to be remembered by Him in his kingdom, died not consecrated. Nor will he come forth from the grave into the earthly Paradise consecrated. (Luke 23:39-43) He, and the other unjust ones who come forth in the judgment resurrection, will have to determine whether to consecrate to God and obey the King and Redeemer and thereby gain life by keeping their consecration vows even amid Satan's loosing at the end of the thousand years.

[23] Likewise, the children born after Armageddon to the "great multitude" of the Lord's "other sheep" who survive that battle and who thereafter carry out the divine mandate to "be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" will be obliged to make a personal consecration to God through the King Christ Jesus. They will have to fulfill such consecration, if they desire to attain to eternal life on earth.—Gen. 1:28; 9:1, 7.

[24] No more appropriate symbol of the unconditional consecration of all these ones to God could there be than that symbol which the Son of God himself performed at his being immersed in the waters of Jordan. But whether or not during the 1000-year reign of Christ, baptism in water of those consecrating to God by his King Christ Jesus is valid and according to the will of God unto this day, and until the antitypical flood of the battle of Armageddon.—See *The Watchtower,* October 1, 1916, page 294.

21 Is salvation gained solely by water baptism? and why?
22 Seeing that water baptism means what it does, then how about such a practice after Armageddon during Christ's reign?
23. How about the children born to the "great multitude" of Armageddon survivors?
24 (a) Why does there appear to be no more appropriate symbol of consecration? (b) Till when, at least, is such symbol valid and according to God's will?

QUESTIONS

THOSE who present themselves for water immersion should have the foregoing facts and Scriptural understanding in mind as they approach the one doing the immersing in water. They should go to this meaningful baptism seriously, not in a jocular frame of mind. When Jesus went to be baptized of John the Baptist, he was very prayerful-minded; he was grave and serious, as shown in the record at Luke 3:21.

As the candidates give themselves to be immersed in water, let them bear in mind that they have previously given themselves in whole and unlimited consecration to God through his Son Jesus Christ, to be dead and buried to their own natural wills and to live thereafter a new life through the doing of the divine will with the help and guidance of His holy spirit. No one can determine whether any of those being immersed since 1931 may in time be begotten by God's spirit to become one of his spiritual sons called with the heavenly calling, thereby taking the place of one who proves unfaithful and unworthy of a place in the heavenly kingdom with Christ Jesus.

Before the immersion by the administrator, there are proper questions to be asked of the candidates and to be answered affirmatively. The substance of such questions should be as follows:

Have you recognized yourself as a sinner and needing salvation from Jehovah God? and have you acknowledged that this salvation proceeds from Him and through his Ransomer Christ Jesus?

On the basis of this faith in God and in his provision for redemption, have you consecrated yourself unreservedly to do the will of God henceforth as that will is revealed to you through Christ Jesus and through God's Word as His holy spirit makes it plain?

Those answering Yes to both of these questions

are worthy, in the light of the Holy Scriptures, to be received and immersed in water. It is pleasing unto God and according to his will and is also commanded by him that such ones be thus baptized.

WHY WE QUOTE THE BIBLE

WHY do Jehovah's witnesses quote the Bible? The answer is, because the Bible is the Word of God and is the truth. The people living on earth prior to the time of Moses did not use or quote from a Bible. Why not? Because Moses himself wrote the first five books of the Bible at the dictation of Jehovah God. Prior to that time God had communicated with his faithful men on earth by and through his angels, spirit creatures. (Gen. 18:1-33; 19:1, 15) God spoke to Moses by his angel and gave him instruction what he should do when he left his father-in-law's home and went back to Egypt. Just before Moses' people, the Israelites, left Egypt, God made a covenant with them, and he used Moses as spokesman and mediator for that purpose. When the Israelites or Hebrews reached Mount Sinai after leaving Egypt, God there confirmed his covenant with them, giving to them his fundamental law written on two tablets of stone. Through Moses he also delivered to them his various statutes. God commanded Moses what to write, and Moses wrote as he was commanded; and thus came into existence the first five books of the Bible as arranged at present.

The Bible record shows that Jehovah God created man in his own image and likeness and that He made the earth for the habitation of man, and that he instructed the first man what he should do in order to maintain his integrity and proper standing before the Lord God. Satan the Devil rebelled against God, and later a horde of wicked angels with him; which crowd of wicked ones thereafter assaulted mankind to turn them away from God and to destroy them thereby. It is only reasonable that God would give to the obedient men who had withstood the Devil His own word, that they might be guided in the right way. This God did by his angels or messengers, for a time; and then in his own due time he caused his faithful servants to make a written record of his message to mankind, which is called "the Bible". God has preserved it since for the benefit of those who desire to know what is right. Moses was wholly devoted to the Lord God, and God chose him to write the books of the Bible that first appear. Thereafter other faithful servants of the Lord wrote portions of the Bible as God commanded them and dictated to them. One of those faithful servants wrote: "The spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue." (2 Sam. 23:2) Another, the apostle Peter, gave further testimony as to the inspiration of the Bible, saying that holy men of God, that is, men devoted to God, spoke as they were moved by His holy spirit. (2 Pet. 1:21) Hence Jesus Christ freely quoted the Bible.

Some men say: "I do not believe there is an Almighty God, and hence I do not believe the Bible." Such men cannot see and understand the truth and are wholly ignorant of man's relationship to the Creator. The Devil has made men mentally blind; and this he has done lest the truth should shine into their minds. (2 Cor. 4:4) A sane and reasonable man, by merely looking about him and observing the things that exist, must know that there is a great Creator, who made all things that are visible; and that great Creator is revealed as the Almighty God and Framer of all things with wisdom beyond the penetration by man. One who does not believe God could never understand the truth, but must remain in darkness. It is written, and here we quote from Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." The man who says there is no Creator is a fool; and we cite our readers to Psalm 14:1 on that. If a man puts himself in the fool class, that shows he is completely under the control of the Devil, who is man's worst enemy.

God does not force man to believe the truth, which truth is in His Word. He puts the truth before man and permits man to exercise his own desire and to accept it or not. God is light, figuratively speaking; and he it is who covers himself with light. (1 John 1:5; Ps. 104:2) His light of truth is not given to those who serve the Devil; and that is shown by the fact that the wicked angels of the Devil are restrained in darkness, unable to fathom God's purpose. "Light is sown for the righteous." (Ps. 97:11) The man who delights himself in the law of God and strives to walk righteously is a man who walks in the light and is blessed. —Ps. 1:1, 2.

The Bible was not written for fools, nor is this magazine published for the benefit of fools. The Bible was written and given to man for his aid and guidance, that such man of good-will and good purpose might be fully advised as to the right way to go and that he might stay on the side of God and refuse to serve the Devil. Hence 2 Timothy 3:16, 17 reads: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." This magazine attempts to put the Bible in a simple way before the people who want to know the truth. It is not expected that it will be appreciated or used by others. The Scriptures contain the Word of God, and the same are true and are the proper guide for the man who wants to know and to do what is right. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. Thy word is true from the beginning; and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever. I rejoice at thy word, as one that findeth great spoil. I hate and abhor lying: but thy law do I love."—Ps. 119:105, 160, 162, 163.

Jesus, the perfect One, testified concerning God's Word as written in the Bible we quote, and he said: "Thy word is truth." (John 17:17) Let no man conclude, however, that the mere owning of the Bible or an occasional reading over its texts is sufficient to enable him to be wise. Many persons say: "I have the Bible and know what it teaches." And yet they are entirely ignorant of what it contains, and of the meaning thereof. The Bible is the